

June 7, 2013

Weekly Views

Indiana Canine Assistant Network (ICAN) Executive Director Sally Irvin, along with some of her staff, visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to take photographs of the offenders that have been selected to participate in the new ICAN Program being implemented at the facility. Sally will be visiting the facility once a week to conduct training for the first group of offender handlers, with the first group of dogs expected sometime in late July. (see photo below)

Seven low-security offenders, supervised by Westville Correctional Facility custody staff, assisted LaPorte County Habitat for



Humanity in moving, painting and light construction work to prepare their Michigan City location for a July 1 Grand Opening. Habitat for Humanity staff complimented the staff and offenders on their efforts and were impressed enough to request our assistance the following week.

500 Special Olympic athletes competing in Bocce Ball will have 12 all-new courts this year, thanks to Wabash Valley Correctional Facility teamwork! PLUS and Fatherhood program participants donated \$3,000 for materials used by the Wabash Maintenance crews to make the courts for this weekend's games in Terre Haute.



Minimum-security offenders helped put the much needed new courts together at Wolf Field on the Indiana State University campus. "This is teamwork and community spirit at its very best!" said Superintendent Richard Brown, who will be joining Wabash volunteers to help out at the Bocce competition. (see photo left)

The Indianapolis Parole District Office, represented by Parole Agent John Hosler, participated in an Offender Employment Specialist Training (OES) Workshop sponsored by AmeriCorps-Starting over Re-entry Program. This training was facilitated by former felons sharing their successful re-entry stories and identifying barriers to achieving gainful employment and elaborating on the

available resources in assisting them to overcome these barriers. The value of the training was defined in the agent's ability to identify, counsel, and instruct prospective employees as to their individual barriers to employment and refer them to community resources to assist them in securing and maintaining continued employment.

Indiana Horseman Benevolent Protection Association President Joe Davis and Executive Director Mike Brown presented Commissioner Bruce Lemmon and Equine Instructor Barbara Holcomb with a check for \$20,000 during a Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation open house held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. The money was donated to the facility's Equine Management program in recognition of the outstanding care and training of retired thoroughbreds.

Angela Duncan, Military Outreach Coordinator for the Indiana Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), presented the prestigious Department of Defense Patriot Award to Plainfield Correctional Facility Captain Harry Jackson in recognition of extraordinary support of military employees who serve in the Indiana National Guard, on behalf of SPC Kyle Bolton, 1-293rd Indiana Army National Guard. (see photo right)



Team DOC made another great showing at the Race Away From Domestic Violence, which was held over the weekend at Victory Field in Indianapolis. Participants included (see photo

below L to R) Kelsey Pagley, Tim Greathouse, Robin Pagley, David Reeves, Hope Greathouse, Tyler Pagley, Chris Dehart, Amanda Dehart, and Lane Coffin.

Offenders and staff in Miami Correctional Facility's Miami Accessible Media Project celebrated its 5-year anniversary Thursday with Party Subs from Subway and words of appreciation from officials with the Indiana School for the Blind & Visually Impaired and PEN Products. The program has far exceeded anyone's original expectations, according to Jim Durst, Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Superintendent. And even though it is one of the newest of the 47 programs nationwide, it is one of the best and most recognized. The program

has grown from offenders learning Braille and transcribing K-12 grade textbooks for Indiana visually impaired school children to producing large format textbooks, accessible/digital file books and tactile graphics.

The Correctional Industrial Facility has completed the renovation of the playroom in the visiting area after several months of hard work by Offenders Schmitt and Pratt. The duo painted different scenes on each section of the walls that include super heroes, an underwater ocean scene, and a medieval castle complete with dragon. Offender Aaron Meeks and his family were the first to enjoy the playroom and expressed how much easier this would make visits with children. Coloring books, toys and a "seek and find" on the ocean scene give the children and opportunity to connect and play games in an environment that is kid friendly.

Early Memorial Day morning, American Legion INVET Post 311 members held an event at the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility (IREF) to honor and remember fallen American soldiers. Open to the entire facility, the ceremony included the recounting of the history and origin of Decoration Day (the decoration of the graves of Civil War veterans with flowers), a prayer in remembrance of all U.S. soldiers who had made the ultimate sacrifice for America's freedom, a flag raising then lowering to half mast, and the playing of "Taps" by veteran and IREF INVET Resident Derek Lane. Several residents and staff attended the ceremony.

